

B O R O U G H O F L U D L O W

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1962.





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C O N T E N T S

Public Health Officers.

Introduction.

Vital Statistics.

Section A : General Statistics and notes on Vital Statistics.

Section B : General provisions of Health Services.

Section C : Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

Section D : Housing.

Section E : Inspection and Supervision of Food Supply.

Section F : Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

P U B L I C H E A L T H O F F I C E R S.

Medical Officer of Health

Elizabeth Capper M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

H.V. James, M.A.P.H.I. M.I. Mun.E.

Public Health Laboratory Service

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Public Health Laboratory,

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Shrewsbury.

Telephone: Shrewsbury 4389.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1962.

Municipal Offices,
Ludlow,
September, 1963.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors of Ludlow Corporation.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department in 1962.

The Vital Statistics continue to be indicative of a healthy and increasing population and all rates compare favourably with those for England and Wales except for the Infant Mortality Rate. Because of the small numbers involved rather large fluctuations may be expected, but there has been no steady rise in Infant Mortality Rate in recent years, rather it has had a falling tendency. It is very pleasing to be able to report such a low illegitimate birth rate this year.

Though on the threshold of many changes, including changes to the Hospital and Ambulance Services, and in spite of no increase in staff, very satisfactory progress has been made in all branches of the work, especially in housing and slum clearance.

There has been an increase again in the number of Improvement Grants applied for but landlords are still not availing themselves of this opportunity to improve rented houses, far too many of which are just being allowed to deteriorate until they become un-inhabitable.

Apart from cases of tuberculosis, the Borough remained remarkably free from Infectious Diseases, and the Immunisation and Vaccination programmes proceeded satisfactorily.

I should like to thank all my colleagues for their help throughout the year, especially Mr. James the Public Health Inspector, and to thank him and Mr. Boulton for helping me to prepare this report.

Elizabeth Capper,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW.VITAL STATISTICS - 1962.Live Births.

Number	118.
Rate per 1,000 population	17.46
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	.85

Stillbirths.

Number	3.
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	24.8

Total Live and Still Births. 121.

Infant Deaths. (deaths under one year) 4.

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	33.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births.	34.2
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) 33.9

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) 25.4

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births) 49.6

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0

Rates for England and Wales, 1962.

Birth Rate	18.0
Death Rate	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate	21.6
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	15.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate	30.8

S E C T I O N A.General Statistics and Notes on Vital Statistics.

Area (in acres)	1,068
Registrar Generals Estimate of Population	6,760
Number of inhabited houses	2,271
Rateable value of the Borough	£72,685
Estimated product of 1d rate	£297

The increase in population in 1962 was 70. The increases in recent years are as follows:-

1958	20
1959	20
1960	30
1961	50
1962	70

Births.

The total number of live births was 118 (59 male and 59 female) and this year only one was illegitimate.

Thus the percentage of illegitimate live births was only .85, which is a great improvement on recent years.

Stillbirths.

There were 3 stillbirths this year, all male, the Stillbirth Rate of 24.8. is practically unchanged, and is still a little higher than the national figure.

Infant Mortality.

There were 4 infant deaths (3 male and 1 female) and all occurred within the first month of life, three of them occurring within the first week. Prematurity was the cause of the three early deaths and multiple congenital abnormalities caused the other death.

The infant Mortality Rate of 33.9 is very much higher than the rate in 1961 (18.18) and considerably higher than the Rate for England and Wales for 1962.

Deaths.

There were 109 deaths in 1962. The Crude Death Rate was 16.12 and the Standardised Rate was 11.61. The figures for 1961 were 15.7 and 10.05 respectively.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths from all causes	48	61	109
Rate per 1,000 population	16.12		
Standardised Death Rate	11.61		
Death Rate England & Wales	11.9		
Comparability factors			
	Births 1.0		
	Deaths .72		

Cause of Death.

Diseases of heart and circulation	19	21	40
Vascular lesions of central nervous system	6	14	20
Malignant disease (excluding lung)	4	4	8
Malignant disease of lung	2	-	2
Pneumonia	9	8	17
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other respiratory diseases	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other diseases	4	8	12
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	-	-	-
	<u>48</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>109</u>

Diseases of the heart & circulation caused 55% of the deaths - a figure which remains practically unchanged each year. Malignant disease caused 9.17% of the deaths compared with 15.2% last year.

In recent years respiratory diseases have caused about 10% of deaths, but this year there has been a marked increase up to 19.3%.

Apart from the Infant Deaths, there were 3 deaths this year in the under 20 year age group - two of these were the result of road accidents and the third followed a long and very trying illness.

S E C T I O N B.General Provisions of Health Service.Staff.

There has still been no increase in the Public Health Inspector's staff, although the quantity of work increases relentlessly. It was felt that to advertise for an assistant Public Health Inspector would be useless for the time being.

Laboratory Services.

Dr. Jones reports on weekly samples of water, and is always willing to give advice and help in any case of suspected food poisoning or other problems which arise.

Ambulance Services.

A proposal made by the County Council in November to move the Ambulance Station to Craven Arms as part of a programme for building wholetime stations and staff houses caused great concern. In January a meeting was held in Ludlow between representatives of the County Council, the Ludlow Borough and Rural District to discuss the proposals. Both the Borough and Rural District Representatives expressed the opinion that the Ambulance Depot should be situated in Ludlow. In May the County Council adopted its proposals and in due course a joint letter of protest was sent to the Ministry by the Ludlow Town Clerk and the Clerk to Ludlow Rural District Council and his decision is still awaited.

Nursing Services.

The Borough continued to be served by one Home Nurse, two District Nurse Midwives and one Health Visitor, all but the Home Nurse working in the Rural District also. We welcomed Miss Lydiate back and she is to work as a Health Visitor and District Nurse Midwife.

(Continued)

Veneral Diseases Clinics.

Belmont - Shrewsbury.

Males Tuesday & Fridays

6 - 8 p.m.

Females

Mondays

3.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Thursdays

5 - 7 p.m.

Hospital Services.

Hospital facilities were unchanged but the ten year Hospital Plan which was presented to Parliament in January proposes many changes throughout the County. The aim is to modernise the whole hospital service and relate it to the services giving care and treatment outside hospital by the general practitioners, local Health Authorities and voluntary bodies. It is based on the estimated needs in 1975. The key to the plan is the District General Hospital, having a minimum of 300 beds and having a 24 hour accident service. Small hospitals are considered unsatisfactory as they are uneconomical and cannot provide the full scope of treatment.

The policy, as far as Ludlow is concerned, was to build a new District General Hospital in Shrewsbury, close the Ludlow & District and East Hamlet Hospitals and build a geriatric unit, and maternity unit and out patient department at East Hamlet. The number of geriatric beds was to be reduced from 84 to 32 and the maternity beds from 7 to 6.

Widespread concern has been voiced both in the Borough and the Rural District and various meetings have been held with representatives of the Regional Hospital Board in an effort to increase the geriatric and maternity beds, and to obtain some beds for acute cases - though this latter is contrary to the idea of the Plan.

Local Health Authorities are also producing their ten year plan and have been advised by the Minister to provide facilities for cooperation with voluntary organisations.

National Assistance Act 1948 (Amendment) Act 1962.

This extends the power of local authorities to assist voluntary organisations financially and in other ways to provide meals and recreation for old people, or to provide such help themselves.

Old People's Welfare.

The Old People's Welfare Committee appeared satisfied that every old person in the town was visited fairly regularly by somebody, though there is no definite organisation for this. The Womens Voluntary Services continued their excellent work and

provided hot meals on two days each week, even continuing during the holidays when the school canteen was closed. This regular visiting is invaluable. Many organisations in the town contribute to the Welfare of the Old People and all cannot be mentioned here, but the help given to some of the Old People who were rehoused under the Slum Clearance Scheme by the Womens Voluntary Services, the Red Cross and the Round Tablers should be recorded.

Child Welfare Centres.

Child Welfare Clinics were held at Dinham on Mondays 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. and at New Street on Thursdays 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Other Clinics were held at Dinham for Dental care, Speech Therapy, Chest diseases, Audiology Child Guidance and Immunisations, attendances being by appointment at these clinics.

The Relaxation and Mothercraft Clinic continued to be held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2.30 p.m. and give an admirable opportunity for Health Education.

Family Planning.

Centres are held by the Family Planning Association at Shrewsbury, Hereford & Kidderminster when advice can be obtained on family planning and other matters.

SECTION 'C'Sanitary Circumstances of the area.

Water Supplies: As in previous years, the natural supplies were generally adequate. Bulk purchases amounting to 26 million gallons were made, necessitated by periods of drought and lack of storage facilities.

No new mains were laid during the year.

All water supplied is Chlorinated and of 98 samples analysed bacteriologically, 93 samples were satisfactory, as were the repeat samples of the other 5.

Chemical Analyses of the two natural supplies were as follows :-

CERTIFICATES OF ANALYSES.

Date: 30th. May, 1962.

Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

	Fountain Spring. (High level)	Burway Spring. (Low level)
Appearance	Bright, few large particles.	Bright few large particles.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.007	0.007
Chlorine in Chlorides	15.0	25.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.5	4.6
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27 C in 4 hours)	0.1	0.3
Total Solids dried at 100 C	225	400
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent.	Absent.
pH	7.90	7.39
Free Chlorine	-	-
Hardness { Temporary	130	200
{ Permanent	55	110
{ Total	185	310
Radioactivity	-	-

The above results show that these waters are chemically of very good quality and, subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, suitable for use as a Public Supply.

Signed. Bostock Hill & Rigby,

Public Analysts.

Of the 2271 permanent dwellings in the Borough, 2138 have direct supplies from the mains into the houses, 132 are supplied by stand-pipes and 1 house has a private supply from a well.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The new bath, which had been used in 1961, as an open-air pool was re-opened in June as a covered swimming bath, complete with spectators' galleries and toilets, water and space heating equipment and canteen.

Improved amenities for sun-bathing etc. are to be proceeded with next season.

The bath was extensively used during the 6 months season, attendance figures being as follows:-

Adults.	5,051
Juniors, including School Children.	29,721
Spectators.	4,820

Mains water is used and purification is carried out by means of;

- a) mechanical strainers.
- b) Break-point chlorination,
- c) Stella Filters
- &
- d) Alkaline dosage plant.

The bath has a capacity of 84,000 gallons and the water is changed every four hours by continuous flow circulating pumps. 13 samples of the bath water were analysed and 12 were found to be entirely satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Sausage Casing Factory continued to operate throughout the year, but although de-odorising equipment was installed in early spring, during the summer months conditions deteriorated and many complaints were received from local residents.

As a result, in September, it was resolved that the Consent under Sec. 107. P.H.A. 1936 be extended only to the 16th. April, 1963.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Of the 2271 houses in the Borough, 2213 have main drainage, 36 are connected to satisfactory private sewage disposal or treatment plants, and the remaining 22 have chemical or pail closets, with proper means of disposal.

The existing works and plant have been maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition and although several breakdowns to the pumps occurred these were dealt with expeditiously. There is, of course, only a limited period left for the efficient functioning of the machinery and it is a great relief to report that on the 8th. October, work commenced on the new Sewage Disposal Works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collections from all domestic premises continue to be made weekly. Hotels, cafes, snack-bars etc. are visited at least twice weekly for refuse collection and in the holiday season, as often as is necessary.

All refuse collected is disposed of by fully controlled tipping with complete absence of any form of nuisance.

100½ tons of paper was collected as Salvage, baled and sold, although the income from this source does not cover the costs incurred.

RODENT CONTROL.

Periodical surveys were made of all the main sewers, the refuse tip, sewage works and other Council properties and the necessary treatment was carried out as required. The Broad Street sewer, a stone lined culvert, originally constructed as an escape route from the Parish Church, is always suspect, and in previous years has been treated with acute poisons. This year and in 1961, Warfarin was used as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, but without complete success.

In December, on the advice of, and with co-operation of the Regional Pests Officer, this sewer was test baited and then, with his guidance, was treated with Fluoracetamide, the latest type of poison. Results are awaited with interest.

Details of premises visited are as follows :-

Private dwellings. 242

Business premises. 63.

Agricultural " 4.

These figures include empty premises, including houses closed under the Housing Acts, or awaiting demolition.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS 1937 & 1948.

There are 92 factories in the Borough, 77 with mechanical power and 15 without.

Inspections by the Public Health Inspector were as follows:-

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15.	34.	2.
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	77.	102.	4.
Total.	92.	136.	6.

Cases in which Defect were found:-

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Want of Cleanliness.	6.	6.	-.
Inadequate ventilation	2.	2.	-.
Sanitary Conveniences.			
Unsuitable or defective.	8.	8.	3.
Total.	16.	16.	3.

SECTION 'D'HOUSING.

Number of inhabited houses including units
of accommodation at business premises. 2271.

Number of Houses owned by Council. 587.

House completed in 1962.

(a) Council Houses.	42.
(b) Private Houses.	9.

Houses under construction as at 31/12/1962.

(a) Council Houses.	76.
(b) Private Houses.	9.

Improvement Grants applied for. 17.
(of these 9 were made under Sec.4
House Purchase & Housing Act.1959.)

Number of Applicants for Council Houses. 280.

These can be classified as follows:-

(a) Without homes of their own.	51.
(b) Occupying houses in the Borough but desiring a change.	80.
(c) Occupying sub-standard houses in the Borough.	59.
(d) Living outside the Borough.	90.

New Houses. The 42 Council houses completed comprised the remaining 2 houses of the Sandpits Close Scheme and 40 of Stage 3, Sheet Road Scheme, which provides in all for 108 units of accommodation.

In addition to the above, a scheme of 8 dwellings comprising 3 - 2B.R. Bungalows and 5 - IB.R. Bungalows at Springfield Close was under construction.

Moveable Dwellings. Of the 2 licensed caravan sites, the owner of the site at Sandpits Road decided not to comply with the Schedule of Conditions on grounds of expense and agreed to clear the site by March 1963.

The owner of the other site, at The Cliff, Dinham, commenced the work necessary to comply with the Schedule, but for various reasons progress was slow and in the Autumn, he obtained an extension of time.

Action under the Housing Acts.

Number of houses represented as unfit (Sec. 16)	32..
Number of Closing Orders made	11.
Number of Demolition Orders made	19.
Number of Undertakings by owners to render Houses fit accepted.	3.
Number of houses closed (of these 9 were closed under Sec.17 (3) (b) Housing Act 1957.)	35.
Number of houses demolished.	4.
Number of houses rendered fit by owner after acceptance of Undertaking.	1.
Number of houses rendered fit by Informal Action under the Public Health Act.	17.
Comparative figures for 1961 are as follows:-	
Number of houses represented as unfit (Sec.16)	26.
Number of Closing Orders made	15.
Number of Demolition Orders made	4.

SECTION 'E'INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat. The 3 licensed slaughterhouses continued in use throughout the year. The number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 5756, an increase of approximately 36% over the figures for 1961. This has meant a considerable increase in the time taken for inspection, and supervision of the conditions existing at the slaughterhouses.

The arrangements for the collection of hides, inedible offal, condemned meat etc. are adequate and no nuisances from these sources occurred.

It is pleasing to report that during the illness of your Public Health Inspector, the duties of Meat Inspection were carried out by the Public Health Staff of the Ludlow R.D.C. under an arrangement for mutual help which has operated for many years.

The Government Grant for the inspection of carcasses extra to the Borough's requirements was £40. It will be noted that completely different arrangements will operate as and when the new Regulations come into force.

CARCASES & OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle excluding Cows. Calves. Sheep. Pigs. Cows.				
Numbers killed.	790	Nil	11	3686	1269
Numbers inspected.	790	Nil	11	3686	1269
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticercus Bovis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	Nil
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned.	32	Nil	Nil	27	38
Percentage affected	4.05%	Nil	Nil	0.84%	3.0%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	16
Percentage affected.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.26%

CARCASES & OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART cont.

Cattle

Excluding Cows. Calves. Sheep. Pigs.
Cows.Cysticercus Bovis.

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some parts or organs were condemned.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage affected.	0.38%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Milk. 9 dealers are licensed by the Salop C.C. for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" "Pasteurized" and "Sterilized" Milk and 1 Producer/Retailer licence has been issued by the ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. During the year, 28 samples of designated milk were taken by the Staff of the County Council and 27 were satisfactory. In addition, 28 samples from the Sheet Road Pasteurisation establishment all proved satisfactory.

Ice-cream. The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream in December was 41. Only proprietary brands are retailed and only 3 sell other than pre-packed varieties.

Other Foods. Inspections of other foods displayed for sale have frequently been made, and as a result, coupled with the requests of the owners of retail shops, the following condemnations were made:-

Assorted Veg.	25lbs.	Meat in Tins.	38 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Fruit	49tins.	Vegetables.	15 tins.
Tomatoes.	15tins.	Sausages.	23 lbs.
Milk.	6tins.	Tripe.	6 lbs.
Fish.	7tins.	Fruit.	7 lbs.

Food Premises. The number and types of food premises are as follows:-

Butchers.	12.	Fried Fish Shops.	2.
Bakehouses.	14.	Restaurants, Cafes	
Food Shops.	76.	and Snack Bars.	19.

Premises registered under Sec.14 Food and Drugs Act 1938 and included in the above figures are 49.

The standard of hygiene in food premises has been considerably improved with resultant compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Frequent visits continue to be made to all food premises and advice given on minor matters.

S E C T I O N F.Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified in 1962.

	1st. quarter.	2nd. quarter.	3rd. quarter.	4th. quarter.
Measles				5
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1		1	1
Acute Encephalitis.			2	
Acute Pneumonia	1		1	
Food Poisoning	1			

An unusually small number of infectious diseases was notified in 1962. The absence of whooping cough is very satisfactory.

The Cases of tuberculosis were a man of 59 years, a woman of 41 years and her son aged 11 years.

It was not possible to trace the source of food poisoning, but it was considered it was probably outside the Borough.

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register, December,
1962.

Pulmonary :	59
Non Pulmonary :	10

Removal from register cured :	3
Transferred in :	2
Transferred out :	3
Died :	1

Notification was received from the Ministry of Health of 11 cases of typhoid fever who had recently returned to this County from Teneriffe but none came to Ludlow.

Information was received frequently from the Ministry about small pox outbreaks which occurred early in the year, again fortunately we were not affected. The demand for vaccination was very great, almost hysterical in fact, although mass vaccination was never even considered and only vaccination of contacts and those who may be at risk because of their employment was advised. Fortunately no very serious reactions occurred in Ludlow.

Early in the year there was an outbreak of influenza, so large that the Manager of the local National Insurance Office notified that it was of epidemic proportions.

Prophylaxis.

The County Medical Officer of Health has very kindly supplied the following figures:-

Under 1 year. 1-4 years. 5-14 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Primary	47	55	3
Booster doses.	8	37	4

Whooping Cough.

Primary	47	42	2
Booster doses.	7	6	1

Tetanus.

Primary	47	59	5
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Poliomyelitis

Primary with 2 injections of Salk.

	<u>1962 - 1943.</u>	<u>1942 - 1933.</u>	<u>Others.</u>
	14	3	4
Third injection of Salk.			
	52	16	36

Fourth injection of Salk. 1

Three doses of Oral Vaccine.

	<u>1962-1943.</u>	<u>1942-1933.</u>	<u>Others.</u>
	101	8	15
Third dose of Oral following two Salk.			
	57	21	62

Fourth dose of Oral following three Salk.

Small pox Vaccination.

Primary

<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>Over 14.</u>
72	10	47	203	252

Re-vaccination

-	-	8	209	633
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B.C.G. Vaccination.

The following are particulars of Mantoux Tests and B.C.G. vaccinations given at schools in Ludlow.

Number of children accepting B.C.G. vaccination	200
Number of children refusing B.C.G. vaccination	10
Number skin tested	175
Number not tested	15
Number found to be positive	19
Number found to be negative	151
Number given B.C.G.	150.

